

## **AGENDA**

### **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL DJJ REALIGNMENT PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE**

**June 10, 2021**

**12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

#### **Zoom Meeting Details on Page 2**

1. Welcome (12:00-12:05)
2. Public Comment (speakers may be limited to two minutes) (12:05-12:10)
3. Consider Approving the Record of Action from May 13, 2021 (12:10-12:15)
4. Presentation and Discussion on the Close to Home model by Gladys Carrión and Felipe Franco (12:15-12:55)
5. Presentation and Discussion on the Pre-Apprenticeship Program by Beli Acharya (12:55-1:25)
6. Outstanding Items (1:25-1:30)
7. Adjourn

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend JJCC meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 48 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by staff to a majority of the members of the JJCC less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 50 Douglas Drive, Suite 201, Martinez, CA during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Materials are also available on line on the Probation Department's website. For additional information, contact: Deborah Caldwell, Executive Secretary, (925) 313-4188  
[Deborah.Caldwell@prob.cccounty.us](mailto:Deborah.Caldwell@prob.cccounty.us)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95855495819?pwd=anNkaW51ZTA4b2JlL1lzcUdWM1lFUT09>

Meeting ID: 958 5549 5819

Passcode: 272001

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Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/95855495819?pwd=anNkaW51ZTA4b2JlL1lzcUdWM1lFUT09>

**RECORD OF ACTION**

**DJJ REALIGNMENT PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE of the  
Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)**

**May 13, 2021**

**12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**ZOOM Virtual Meeting**

**Present:**

Steven Blum, Behavioral Health  
Barbara Hinton, CCC Juvenile Presiding Judge  
Jonathan Laba, Public Defender  
Lynn Mackey, Board of Education  
Stephanie Medley, Community Representative  
Ri Scott, Chair of JJC  
Tamisha Walker, Community Representative

**Absent:**

Esa Ehmen-Krause, Probation  
Roslyn Gentry, Children & Family Services  
Andrea Tavenier, District Attorney

Meeting called to order by Stephanie Medley, Community Representative at 12:04 pm

**Item 3 – Approve the Record of Action from the April 29, 2021, Meeting**

**Approve as presented**

Lynn Mackey (Board of Education), Ri Scott (Chair of JJC)  
AYE – 6 Councilmembers  
Absent for vote – Barbara Hinton (CCC Juvenile Presiding Judge)

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

# Group Norms & Values


1. Participate with your whole self
2. Consider positional power – take or make space accordingly
3. When we disagree, we get curious
4. When we agree we stay curious
5. No one knows everything, but together we know A LOT
6. Let's try to laugh together a few times
7. These are OUR CHILDREN
8. We are all seeking the same destination, though our paths may be different



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## General Background

- The first juvenile court was established in 1899
  - Idea caught on quickly and many states established their own juvenile justice systems
- CA Juvenile Court established 1903
  - Statehood in 1850 – boys were sent to San Quentin
  - First separate facility for juveniles: SF Industrial Schools in 1859
    - Privately run



The slide includes a vertical abstract artwork on the right side, featuring swirling teal, blue, and orange colors. At the bottom left, the **IMPACT/JUSTICE** logo is repeated in a smaller size, with the tagline *A National Innovation and Research Center* below it.

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## General Background

- There is no federal juvenile justice system (JJS)
  - Each state is (mostly) free to set up whatever system they feel is best
  - We have dozens and dozens of distinctly operating JJS in the USA
- Now California is moving to dismantle its state-level JJS, and return responsibility to the Counties
  - What does this mean in practice?
  - What are the implications of this?
  - How do we break new ground & learn from past mistakes?

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## "Other Peoples' Children"

- The juvenile justice system was developed and implemented by people who were deeply concerned about other people's children
  - Mostly children from immigrant groups (most seen as non-white at the time)
  - Native American children
  - Children in urban areas
- This sentiment has led to the development of a system that is much more harsh than most of us would ever feel is acceptable for our own children

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## Racism & Prejudice

- Racism and prejudice against poor families resulted in the creation of a very powerful system
  - Because POC & poor people weren't seen as capable of being "good, moral" parents, the State was given incredible power to intervene in their lives
  - "Kids will be kids" doesn't extend to POC kids, particularly black youth
    - I.e: Adultification of youth of color → We treat them like adults at early ages
- We are still dealing with racism and classism today
  - People and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the system

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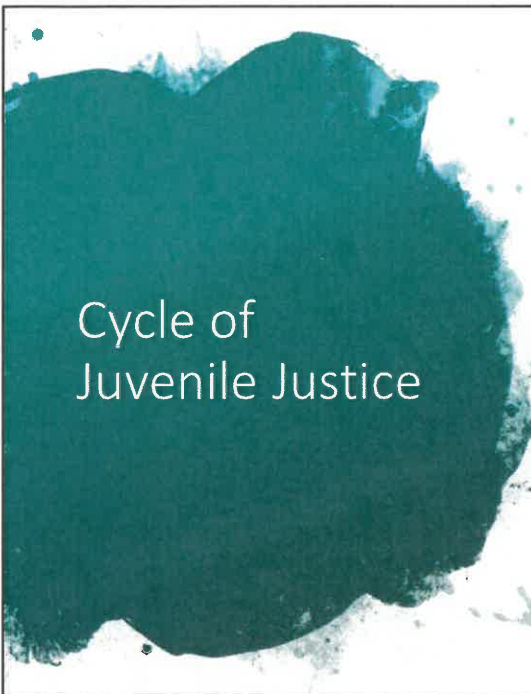
## Constant Pendulum Swing

- Supreme Court decisions have swung back and forth over the years
    - Cycle between viewing the JJS as "help" that youth need at any cost
      - I.e. If we're helping them, they don't need "protection" from the system
- VS.
- Viewing the JJS as an adversarial system, in which youth need protection of their rights
    - Where we get Miranda rights, right to attorney, etc. extended to juveniles

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## Cycle of Juvenile Justice

- For more than 100 years, we've struggled to make real improvements to JJS
- While some good changes have been implemented, we haven't been able to escape the pendulum swings of public opinion
- The power of the system, and the local nature of the systems make them very susceptible
- We've inherited a system that is not based on research, but on public opinion, particularly that of the wealthy & powerful

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## Constants in Public Opinion

- The majority of people overestimate crime rates
- Majority of people believe "kids today" are worse than when they were young
- Majority of people expect 100% success rates & overreact to instances of re-offending
- Underestimating societal & structural factors
- This has been true for more than 50 years of public opinion research

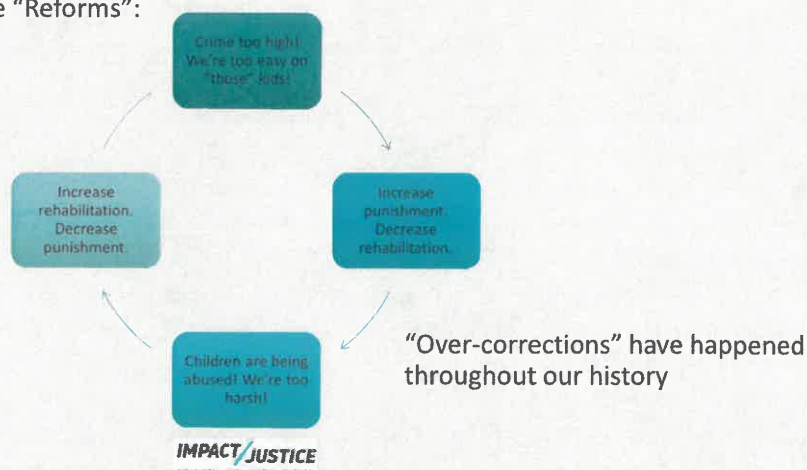
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# Delinquency, Responses, & Change

Cycles of Juvenile Justice "Reforms":



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## Misguided "Reforms"

- "Tough on Crime" Policies of the 1990s and early 2000s
  - War on Drugs is a perfect example of criminalization of racialized poverty
    - But also: 3-strikes laws; life without parole; felony murder; mandatory minimums, etc.
  - Directly led to our current system of mass incarceration
  - Harmful, dysfunctional system that we're still working to undo

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## Misguided “Reforms”

- Deinstitutionalization of Mental Health services in the 1970s
  - Horrific, abusive conditions in many state-run “mental health” facilities led to public outcry
  - In response, most states went through a rapid period of deinstitutionalization
    - Motives were good – get people out of those places & restore patient rights, etc.
  - **But** no other systems of support were put into place
  - Has led to current mental health crisis
  - County jails are now the largest provider of mental health services in California

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## Misguided “Reforms”

- Present-day reforms have typically excluded the SB 823 population
  - Difficult to extend reforms to “serious, violent” charges
  - Many programs and reforms have only applied to “low-hanging fruit”
- Addressing mass incarceration, providing real therapeutic services requires including those with serious & violent charges

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## Changing Systems

- Challenging existing systems will ALWAYS be an uphill battle
  - People generally like to think of themselves as good and well-intentioned
  - Those in charge of systems are rarely those impacted by it
- The idea that **society** is responsible for crime/harm → threatening to existing systems, because they'd have to change
- The state will generally be supportive of the expansion of system power
  - See it as an extension of their own power
  - i.e. Although CA is closing state facilities, the systems still exist on a more local level

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## Our SB 823 Challenge(s)

- Not replicate the dysfunctional state system at the local level
  - May require significant innovation
- Ensure that racial/ethnic disparities are not replicated
  - We can and should do better than DJJ
- Ensure that disparities based on SOGIE are not replicated
  - Need to be especially mindful of girls & LGBTQ+ young people
  - Historically girls have been punished much more harshly for “moral” offenses (running away, defiance, other status offenses)
  - Evidence still today that girls are punished more harshly for minor offenses

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## Our SB 823 Challenge(s)

- Ensure we're not net-widening because we created a "better" system
  - I.e. Look how great these facilities are! We should make sure more kids can benefit from this
    - Dangerous thinking that leads to higher incarceration rates & punishing more people in the name of "help"
- Ensure average length-of-stay (by offense type) does not increase
- Creating a plan that satisfies the DAO & Judiciary to avoid increase in transfers to the adult system

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## Making Real Progress

- Real change is possible
- Recent innovations like:
  - Credible Messengers
  - Community-based alternatives
  - Home-like housing
- All show success in research! I.e. lower recidivism than traditional system & better outcomes for youth

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## Making Real Progress

- Real oversight is needed for any system with considerable power
  - “Real” = system impacted people & those from impacted communities
- Community-based solutions show the highest rates of success
- All demonstrate that centering the people and communities most impacted results in real success
  - Treating justice-involved youth as “our kids” is essential

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